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News Release

ICE ARRESTS 14 ILLEGAL ALIENS WORKING AT LOGAN AIRPORT

Ongoing 'Operation Tarmac' finds fugitive alien among illegal aliens employed as temp workers

BOSTON – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents today arrested 14 illegal aliens, including one fugitive alien with an outstanding deportation order, as part of an ongoing investigation into an illegal worker scheme at Logan International Airport.

The illegal aliens arrested today all worked for Hurley of America, a contract company that provides janitorial services for Logan Airport. The illegal workers all had temporary badges that allowed access to areas beyond where passengers are screened and up to the boarding gates.

There is no indication that any of the aliens were involved in any terrorist activity. Thirteen of those arrested will be placed in deportation proceedings. One alien has an outstanding deportation order issued by a federal immigration judge and will be deported. Two are juveniles. All of those arrested are citizens of Brazil.

"Protecting the security and safety of the airline industry and its passengers is a crucial part of ICE's continuing enforcement strategy," said ICE Boston Special Agent-in-Charge Robin Avers. "We are systematically identifying vulnerabilities that pose a threat to public safety or national security, then working aggressively to shut them down."

This worksite enforcement action at Logan is part of ICE's "Operation Tarmac," an ongoing nationwide critical infrastructure protection initiative by ICE that targets employers and unauthorized workers who have access to sensitive areas at airports. The Department of Homeland Security places a priority on protecting the nation's critical infrastructure, which includes airports.

To date, ICE agents have conducted investigations at 196 airports and audited more than 5,800 businesses as part of Operation Tarmac. As a result, more than 5,800 unauthorized airport workers have been identified, more than 1,000 unauthorized alien workers have been arrested, and 775 criminal indictments have been issued.

Other agencies that assisted ICE in today's operation include the Transportation Security Administration, Massachusetts State Police, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Police, Bristol County Sheriff's Department, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

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ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.